

222000

Public Service Commission of South Carolina

Attn: Docketing Department

P.O. Drawer 11649

Columbia, S.C. 29211

RECEIVED

Re: Docket No. 2009-489-E

FEB 22 2010

PSC SC
CLERK'S OFFICE

Dear Sir:

I have read with disbelief that SCE&G is applying for a rate increase that would, over the next sixteen months or so, increase its retail electric rates by over nine percent. Does SCE&G not know what the word "recession" means? Do they not read the newspapers or watch TV news?

We, the customers of SCE&G (who have no choice but to be customers of SCE&G), are struggling to keep our businesses solvent, and to hold on to the customers we have. How in the name of decency can SCE&G even consider a rate increase at this time? Based on the evidence, I have to assume that the company is so removed from the reality of a competitive market, and from what it really takes to maintain a business in this economic downturn, that now may seem as good a time as any.

I see in the announcement that the justifications are based on increased federal regulations and requirements. Also, SCE&G "has experienced increased costs in continuing to provide safe and reliable service to its customers." While it would be great for us in the private sector to be able to raise prices in a competitive market every time the federal government passed another regulation that cost businesses dollars, or every time we had an "increase cost" in providing our goods and services; the reality is that in a competitive market, it is not possible to pass on every cost increase to the customer. Nor can we, the customers of SCE&G be expected to pass this new rate increase on to our customers in this recessionary period. This rate increase will be just another blow to the declining health of small businesses in South Carolina.

I am asking that the South Carolina Public Service Commission deny SCE&G's request for a rate increase, and to not consider a rate increase for the next twenty four months at least. Thank you.

Sincerely,



Thomas E. Wilson III